

Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1 – 36 (canceled)

37. (new) A method for reducing energy costs in an industrially operated facility, comprising:

considering as a whole:

a plurality of operation process sequences performed within the facility, the sequences analyzed by a standardized diagnostic method that identifies areas where improvement to the sequences can be attained, the sequence analysis including consideration of:

energy flows of the facility, the energy flow path including:

purchase of the energy from an energy provider,

consumption of the energy within the facility in a core process, the core process being a process that is specific to an industry sector whose main focus contains the sector-specific know-how of the facility,

conversion of the energy in a secondary process, the secondary process being a process that provides the core process with necessary resources for the core process to function, and

discharge of the energy from the facility;

utilizing computerized information and data-processing systems to assist the analysis of the energy flows through the core and secondary processes;

measuring and allocating to the core and secondary processes the energy consumption levels of the core and secondary processes;

monitoring energy-relevant data from the core and secondary processes;

storing energy-relevant data from the core and secondary processes;

analyzing the energy-relevant data via:

determining production planning for the core process utilizing a first predefined standardized analysis package that is independent of the industry sector;

determining production planning for the secondary process utilizing a second predefined standardized analysis package that is independent of the industry sector; determining energy cost reduction measures for the core and secondary processes based upon the energy-relevant data analysis; and implementing the energy cost reduction measures for the core and secondary processes.

38. (new) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 37, wherein the standardized diagnostic method comprises a computer aided interview of middle or upper management.

39. (new) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 38, wherein the operational process sequences are analyzed by using predefined energy-relevant questions which are independent of the industry sector.

40. (new) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 39, wherein the standardized analysis methods utilize standardized concepts, standardized calculation models, and standardized process analyses to determine potential for reducing energy costs.

41. (new) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 40, wherein the analysis of the computerized information, data processing systems and energy purchasing and discharge is performed using a third predefined standardized analysis package.

42. (new) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 41, wherein country specific regulations are considered during the energy-relevant analysis step, the regulations selected from the group consisting of: standards, subsidies, and financial aids.

43. (new) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 42, wherein the industrial facility is selected from the group consisting of: paper and pulp production facility, steel works, hospital, shipyard, hotel, chemical plant, cement factory, underground system, railway system, container terminal, and drilling rig.

44. (new) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 43, wherein the standardized procedure is predefined within a method handbook.

45. (new) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 44, wherein the energy-relevant questions and the energy-relevant data analysis are stored in a knowledge database.

46. (new) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 45, wherein the questions and energy-relevant data that are stored in the knowledge database are optimized based upon the experience gained by the facility.

47. (new) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 46, wherein the process steps are repeated annually to verify the effectiveness and proper implementation of the measures.

48. (new) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 47, wherein the cost reduction determination is performed by an energy service provider.

49. (new) A system for implementing energy cost reductions in an industrially operated facility, comprising:

a method hand book accessible to the facility via an interconnected computer network for predefining a standardized procedure for a holistic consideration of the energy flow through the facility, the energy flow path including:

purchase of the energy from an energy provider,

consumption of the energy within the facility in a core process, the core process being a process that is specific to an industry sector whose main focus contains the sector-specific know-how of the facility,

conversion of the energy in a secondary process, the secondary process being a process that provides the core process with necessary resources for the core process to function,

discharge of the energy from the facility,  
considering the core and secondary processes in order to determine  
potential cost reductions; and

a knowledge database accessible to the facility via the network, comprising:  
predefined energy-relevant questions that are independent of the industry  
sector for a standardized diagnostic method for the analysis of the operational  
process sequence;

first predefined standardized analysis packages that are independent of  
the industry sector for the standardized analysis method for the analysis of the  
core process;

second predefined standardized analysis packages that are independent  
of the industry sector for the standardized analysis method for the analysis of  
the secondary process;

third predefined standardized analysis packages for a standardized  
analysis method for the analysis of:

computerized information and data-processing systems,  
energy purchasing, and  
discharge from the facility;

having experience obtained regionally or globally in connection with  
the reduction of energy costs.

50. The system as claimed in claim 49, wherein the knowledge database is optimized  
based upon the experience and knowledge gained in the facility.

51. The system as claimed in claim 50, wherein hardware and software tools for  
supporting the standardized procedure are provided to the facility locally by an on site  
installation or via a interconnected computer network.